



Illinois Commerce Commission

NEWS

For Immediate Release

July 13, 2015

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Annual Report Analyzes the Retail Electric Market in Illinois

Chicago, IL – The Illinois Commerce Commission’s Office of Retail Market Development (ORMD) released its eighth annual report to the General Assembly and Governor today describing the competitive retail electric market in Illinois. The report is a requirement of the Retail Electric Competition Act of 2006 and details the specific accomplishments achieved by the ORMD in promoting retail competition.

“The retail electric market is very dynamic, especially in the residential and small commercial customer areas,” said Torsten Clausen, director of the ICC’s ORMD. “The annual reporting allows us to track the changes in the market and analyze the development of competition in the retail electric market.”

Nearly 85% of the non-residential (commercial and industrial) power usage in the ComEd and Ameren service territories were served by alternative retail electric suppliers (“ARES”). Even in the smallest commercial customer class, close to 60% of the electricity is now provided by an ARES (see pages 6-10 of the report).

More than 61% of the residential customers in ComEd’s service territory have switched to an ARES, down from about 68% a year earlier. In the Ameren Illinois service territory, approximately 610,000 residential customers receive power from an ARES in May 2015, down from 672,000 customers in May 2014; this is approximately 60% of the residential customers in the Ameren Illinois rate zones (see page 19 of the report).

The last year saw stabilization in the number of ARES; as of May 2015, 45 ARES offer service to residential customers across the state. Twenty-two suppliers offer residential customers a choice for their electric supply in the Ameren Illinois service territory. Of the residential service offerings in the ComEd service territory, 76% were fixed rate offers and 21% were variable rate offers (see page 29 of the report).

The report details additional measures the ORMD has taken to improve the development of an effective, competitive retail electric market, including conducting a municipal aggregation rulemaking and hosting workshops on issues related to the roll-out of Advanced Meter Infrastructure.

To read the full report visit <http://www.icc.illinois.gov/reports/report.aspx?rt=22>.

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About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission's mission is to pursue an appropriate balance between the interests of consumers and existing and emerging service providers to ensure the provision of adequate, efficient, reliable, safe and least-cost public utility services. The Commission pursues this mission through three bureaus: the Consumer Services Bureau provides educational information on utility issues, resolves customer/utility disputes and develops rules on utility service and consumer protection; the Public Utility Bureau focuses on financial and operational analysis, policy development, public safety and enforcement activities related to electric, natural gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies; the Transportation Bureau includes trucking insurance and registration, railroad safety, relocation towing, safety towing and household goods moving company enforcement activities. The ICC's five commissioners are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Illinois State Senate for five-year terms.